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"THE HIDEOUS CHOICE BETWEEN STARVATION AND VICE," CIVILIZATION'S DISGRACE

Jane Addams, of Hull House, Tells Story of Ruin of Young Russian Woman on Chicago's Streets to Show Peril of Conditions.

The women of the streets—the pity of them, and the blighting danger of them to the youths and girls of the community, is emphasized by Jane Addams, of Hull House, in a series of articles now running in McClure's magazine.

"Many of these women," she says, "are sent out and protected by cadets, and they also are utilized to secure patronage for the disreputable houses.

"Some of them are desperate creatures, making one last effort before they enter a public hospital to face a miserable end; others are young girls trying occasionally to earn money for much desired clothing or pleasures.

"Their suggestive presence on the streets is, perhaps, one of the most demoralizing influences to be found in a large city, and such vigorous efforts as were recently made by the former chief of police in Chicago, when he successfully cleared the streets of their presence, demonstrates that legal suppression is possible.

"Were the streets kept clear,

many young girls would be spared familiar knowledge that such a method of earning money is possible.

"I personally have known several instances in which girls have begun street solicitation through sheer imitation.

"A young Russian woman found herself in dire straits after the death of her mother. Her only friends in America had moved to New York.

"She was in debt for her mother's funeral, and as it was the slack season for the miserable sweat-shop sewing she had been doing, she was unable to find work.

"One evening when she was quite desperate with hunger, she stopped several men upon the street, as she had seen other girls do, and in her broken English, asked them for something to eat.

"Only after a young man had given her a good meal at a restaurant did she realize the price she was expected to pay and the horrible thing the other girls were doing.